

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially identical birefringent properties, where an angle between polarization axes of two of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.

30. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially identical birefringent properties, where a first angle between polarization axes of a first adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\pi}{2}$, and a second angle between polarization axes of a second adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.

Claims 31-38. (Canceled).

39. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 29 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9.

40. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 30 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 1:3:9.

41. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 29 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 4:3:9.

42. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer as in claim 30 where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 4:3:9.

Claims 43-49. (Cancelled).

50. (Previously Presented) A depolarizer with three birefringent plates having substantially identical birefringent properties, where the thicknesses of the plates are in the ratio of 3:4:9 from the thinnest plate to the thickest plate, where a first angle between polarization axes of a first adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\frac{\pi}{2}$, and a second angle between polarization axes of a second adjacent pair of the plates is substantially $n\frac{\pi}{2} \pm \arccos(-1/3)/4$, where n is an integer.